



the **column**

winter 2013



Ariel shots

This page: 1967

Cover: 2012





Contents

Board of Trustees	3
Adult Degree Program	4
Veteran Diploma Ceremony	5
Classroom Art Instruction	6
Knox Leads Development	6
Faculty Promotions	7
Glenn named Harris fellow	8
Accounting Club Award	9
Ladies Civitan Scholarship	9
2012 Founders Court	10
UNA/Athens State MBA	10
McCandless Renovation	11
Beaty Mason Renovation	12
Alumni Trip to Ireland	13
Athenian Ambassadors	13
Art Center Bricks	13
Athletic Homecoming	14
Alumni Dates	14

the **column**
winter 2013
volume XXXII No. 1

Governor Bentley Announces Athens State's Board of Trustees

Governor Robert Bentley announced eight appointments to the newly created Board of Trustees that will govern Athens State University. This is the first time the 191 year-old institution has been led by a board since the then private Athens College was transferred from the purview of the Methodist Church to the State of Alabama in 1975, becoming a public school.

Athens State President Bob Glenn states, "We assembled an extraordinary slate of candidates from which Governor Bentley made his decision to fill the eight appointed positions on the board. We were humbled by those civic leaders, alumni, and friends of the University who came forward to offer their support to our great institution. The Governor's decision exemplifies the talent needed to promote our mission."

Those elected and their terms of service include:

Ms. Mary C. Dickens, 2012-2017. Dickens is currently a Contract Executive in the Senior Executive Service within the Department of Defense at the US Army Contracting Command at Redstone Arsenal. Dickens has also served in various positions within the US Army Aviation and Missile Command. Dickens is a 1993 graduate of Athens State College and received her Master's degree in Management/Contract Management from the Florida Institution of Technology. Dickens resides in Meridianville.

Mr. Garth Lovvorn, 2012-2015. Lovvorn served as Area President of Bank Independent from 2006-2012. He retired in 2012 and is currently managing family farming interests in the Tennessee Valley and the Mississippi Delta. Lovvorn is a 1969 graduate of Athens State College, and a 1978 graduate of the LSU School of Banking of

the South. Lovvorn resides in Athens.

Mr. Macke Mauldin, 2012-2015. Mauldin has served as President of Bank Independent since 1996. He serves as Board Director for the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta (Birmingham Branch) and Director of the Southern Development Council, as well as a member of the Shoals Economic Development Authority. Mauldin is a 1982 graduate of Auburn University and resides in Florence.

Senator Arthur Orr, 2012-2015. Orr currently serves as an Alabama State Senator. Orr also serves as Vice President and General Counsel for Cook's Pest Control. He has previously served as a Country Director/Staff Attorney for Habitat for Humanity International and as an Educational Consultant for the United States Peace Corps. Orr received his Bachelor's Degree from Wake Forest University in 1986 and is a 1989 graduate of the University of Alabama School of Law. Orr resides in Decatur.

Ms. Maxine Randolph, 2012-2019. Randolph is in store management with Home Depot. She has also served as a Store Manager for Lowes, Target and as Chairperson for the Greater Limestone County Chamber of Commerce. Randolph received a bachelor's degree from Marian University. Randolph resides in Elkmont.

Mr. Clint Shelton, 2012-2019. Shelton is the owner of Tennessee Valley Printing Co. which publishes *The Decatur Daily* and *TimesDaily* in Florence. He has previously worked for *The Raleigh News and Observer* and the *Waxahachie Daily Light*. Shelton has served as board chairman of the United Way and Salvation Army. Shelton is a 1986 graduate of Washington and Lee University. Shelton resides in Decatur.

Mr. Tazewell T. Shepard, 2012-2017.

Shepard is a principal in law firm of Sparkman, Shepard & Morris in Huntsville, Alabama. Shepard currently serves as President of the Huntsville-Madison County Bar Association. Shepard is a 1979 graduate of the University of Alabama. Shepard resides in Huntsville. He will serve as Vice Chairman pro tempore.

Dr. Sandra Sims-deGraffenried, 2012-2017. Sims-deGraffenried has an extensive career in public education leadership. For almost two decades she served as an advocate for public education as Executive Director of the Alabama Association of School Boards (AASB). Following her retirement from AASB, she was Associate Executive Director of the Alabama Nursing Home Association. She now serves as a consultant. Sims-deGraffenried earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from Athens College in 1967 and 1970 respectively, and her Doctorate from Vanderbilt University in 1984. Sims-deGraffenried resides in Orange Beach. She was elected Chair pro tempore.

Governor Bentley will serve as the Board President. State Board of Education member Mary Scott Hunter and Post-Secondary Chancellor Dr. Mark A. Heinrich will also serve on the board in their respective roles as leaders in the Alabama educational system.

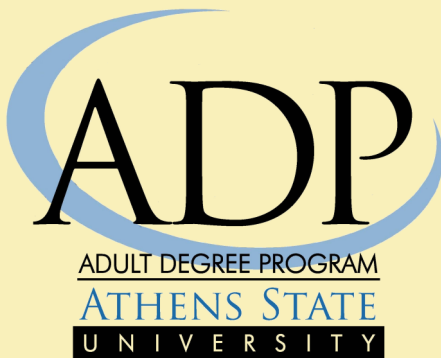
In a letter from Bentley to the appointees, he states, "Appointing you to this position comes with great responsibility because you will be making important decisions that affect the citizens of Alabama."

Governance of Athens State by the Board of Trustees became effective on October 1. The Board of Trustees conducted its first meeting on October 12.



Athens State Initiates the Adult Degree Program

Athens State University announced in a press conference at the Huntsville / Madison County Chamber of Commerce its implementation of an Adult Degree Program (ADP) that will accept students with the beginning of the 2013 Spring Semester. This program offers baccalaureate degrees designed for working adults age 25 and over who have at least 5 years of fulltime work experience. The program targets students who have not yet completed a college degree and need the opportunity to achieve their educational goals.



The ADP will target students who have "stopped out" of college and would generally have at least 41 college credits. Students can submit documentation for up to 32 semester hours of challenge exam credit, or up to 32 hours of prior learning assessment, using national standards. This would include work-based credit related to the particular degree program being pursued. Students will be required to take at least 33 credits of courses at Athens State University. The program will meet the needs of students who desire a quality accredited program with the flexibility to meet their individual needs. It is designed for the student to take courses either online or in the classroom and benefit from Athens State's experienced faculty.

The University is committed to the success of this program and the potential students it can affect by providing trained personnel and physical resources. The ADP will be housed in the recently renovated Chasteen Hall facility with offices, a Testing Center, a computer lab, and classroom space.

The University has also developed a student-focused course designed for all ADP students during their first semester in the program. The course, ADP301, is multifaceted and will address issues specific to returning adult students who have been out of the classroom for a while. The course will also

assist ADP students in identifying and documenting prior learning through non-traditional methods and will guide students through a professional portfolio development process.

Degrees will include a Bachelor of Science in Liberal Studies, Management of Technology, and Education with a concentration in Career/ Technical Education (non-teacher certificate track). Graduates will be prepared to perform productively and professionally in current positions, to assume higher levels of responsibility in career fields, or to further their education in graduate programs if desired.

For further information on the Adult Degree Program at Athens State University, visit www.athens.edu/adp or call 256-233-8281.

Writing Center
Director Tony Ricks
helps Athens State
Business student
Jacob Worthington in
the new, recently
opened Learning
Commons in
the library.



Athens State Properly Confers Diploma to Vietnam Veteran 45 Years Later

In the 191-year history of Athens State University, the complications of war have touched the institution many times whether it be at its own front door or through the deference of the planned educational pursuits of its students.

On Saturday, August 18, Larry Sharp received his diploma on the very spot where Madam Childs, 150 years earlier, had met the Union troops and saved the college. Sharp, who entered the then Athens College in 1963, was headed for Vietnam before he could march and receive his degree in 1967 in front of the grand columns of Founders Hall.

"We are happy to have Mr. Sharp with us here today to thank him for his service to our country and to offer him a second opportunity to participate in Athens State University's graduation ceremony," Athens State President Bob Glenn announced to the crowd assembled Saturday. With that, Sharp was properly conferred his degree of a Bachelor's of Science in Education and had his sheepskin in hand.

"Regardless of your own personal viewpoint about war, or a particular conflict, we must recognize that the choice to enter into the service of one's country is a noble and honorable decision," remarked Glenn after the graduation ceremony. "To place yourself in harm's way to protect something that you cannot hold in your hand, like country, or family or honor, is the very definition of valor."

After his tour of duty, Sharp returned to Athens to pursue the graduate degree of Masters of Arts in Teaching in 1969. This time, his timeline was uninterrupted and he completed his studies the following year.

After leaving Athens State, Sharp taught, coached, and served as an administrator in Madison County Schools for 35 years. He also joined the US Army Reserves serving as an instructor for 23 years. Currently Sharp works in the health insurance business.

"My focus was getting to graduation," stated Sharp about his college days. "I commuted (from Huntsville) each day. When gas prices got to 38 cents per gallon I would sometimes have to hitch-hike to and from school, but I never got stranded."

"I think that the day President John F. Kennedy was shot will forever be in my memory," recalled Sharp. "Such a sad day that the campus just went silent."

In response to his being honored at Athens State's graduation exercises, he stat-

ed, "my days at Athens were special in the 60's and they are special to me now more than ever."

In 2008 at their summer commencement, the Athens State administration honored George Partin, a World War II Navy veteran who was unable to march in his commencement in 1943 due to his military commitment. Partin received his diploma and shook the hand of the institution's President 65 years later to the cheers of the assembled crowd.

"We learned of both Mr. Partin's and Mr. Sharp's inability to receive their diplomas in the appropriate manner by chance," stated Glenn. "...but this is certainly a new tradition we hope to foster at future commencement ceremonies. It is the least we can do for the men and women of service to our country. I hope any alumni military personnel who have missed any aspect of their college experience due to deployment will contact my office so we can make it right."

Sharp was among 123 students who received their diplomas from the lawn of

Founders Hall at the August 18 graduation. Representative Mo Brooks of Alabama's Fifth Congressional District was the keynote speaker at the University's summer commencement service.



The New Program for Classroom Art Instruction

Athens State is now offering a bachelor's degree in Art with a licensure track that offers a certification to teach classroom art in P-12 classrooms. This new track makes a total of three art degree programs for the school including graphic arts and studio arts.

The new art licensure degree program allows undergraduate students to be grounded in a curriculum rich in art history and culture, art criticism and theory, aesthetics, and studio. Students are trained to examine visual development of P-12 students and practice constructing learning environments where social imagination and skills of visual literacy flourish.

"We feel this is a great option for those who are interested in art as a teaching career," states Art Department Chair Pamela Keller. "It is another example of how Athens State listens to their students and makes programmatic changes from their input."

This interdisciplinary degree will be a shared program between the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Education.

During the application process, prospective students will be required to present a portfolio of their art work, either online or in person.

Athens State has several full and partial scholarships to offer qualified incoming, degree-seeking students with a concentration in Art.



College of Business graduates marching to their Commencement ceremony on December 15, 2012.

Ronnie Knox heads Fundraising Efforts

Ronnie Knox has been hired by Athens State University as the Director of Development for the Office of Advancement. Knox, a 1983 graduate of Athens State, has most recently been employed as an executive sales specialist for AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals.

"We are pleased to have someone with Ronnie's background on our team," states Vice President for University Advancement Rick Mould. "Having an alumnus as our chief development officer certainly brings an invaluable familiarity of Athens State to the position. We have identified many initiatives and projects within our master plan and we feel Ronnie is the best choice to present those to both his fellow alumni and to the many friends of the University."



New Academic Year Brings Five Faculty Promotions at Athens State

With the convening of Athens State's 2012/2013 academic year – the 191st for the institution – five faculty members will be promoted within their ranks.

"Fall semesters have traditionally been a time of renewal in the collegiate realm," states Athens State Provost Dr. Ronald R. Cromwell. "This is a perfect time to recognize the hard work and accomplishments of these five professors and their commitment to teaching. The promotions were evaluated by a peer review that examined quality of teaching and service to the University." The five faculty members promoted are:

Dr. Amanda Branscombe - Promoted to Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education / Secondary English Education.

Dr. Amanda Branscombe holds a dual appointment in English Education and Early Childhood Education at Athens State. She earned a B.S. in English Education, an M.Ed., in Educational Leadership, and an Ed.D., in Early Childhood Education from Auburn University. She also received an M.S. in Community Counseling from Georgia State University in Atlanta, and an M.A. from Bread Loaf School of English at Middlebury College in Middlebury, Vermont.

Branscombe has offered professional presentations both nationally and internationally. She has published textbooks and articles on the teaching of writing, young children's writing, constructivist education, and action research done with teachers and students. Branscombe was the editor of the *Journal of Early Childhood Teacher Education* for six years and served on its editorial board for over ten years.

In addition to her collegiate teaching, Branscombe has directed Child Development Centers and Summer Enrichment programs. She was recognized as one of Scholastic Magazine's 25 Outstanding Child Development Center Directors while teaching at the University of Wisconsin-Stout. She was also selected as a Fellow of the University of Wisconsin Faculty.

Dr. Prentice T. Chandler - Promoted to Associate Professor of History / Social Science Education. Dr. Prentice Chandler earned his Ph.D. in social studies education from The University of Alabama. Since joining the faculty in 2006, he has published in state, national, and international publications, and has presented his research at curriculum and social studies conferences across the country.

In 2007 Chandler was awarded the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS)

Defense of Academic Freedom Award, and he was most recently awarded the Distinguished Research Award from Athens State University in 2012 for his scholarly work in social studies education and methods, critical race theory, civic literacy, academic freedom, and authentic social studies pedagogy.

Chandler serves as the faculty sponsor for Pi Gamma Mu, the International Honor Society in Social Sciences, and the chair for the Center for Social Studies Education.

Before coming to Athens State, Chandler taught secondary social studies (grades 6-12) in public schools for 6 years. He also worked as an adjunct professor of geography at The University of North Alabama.

Dr. Michael Essary - Promoted to Associate Professor of Management of Technology.

Dr. Michael Essary came to Athens State University after a successful career with pharmaceutical and manufacturing companies and with 20 years of teaching experience, having taught over 30 courses. He attained his bachelor's degree in Management from the University of Tennessee, his master's in Business Administration from South Carolina University and his Doctorate in Finance from Northcentral University. He is a member of Delta Mu Delta and the Golden Key International Honour Society.

Essary has been elected twice to serve as the Presiding Office of the Faculty Senate. He has served as Department Chair for the Logistics and Supply Chain and Contract and Acquisition Department and now serves as the Department Chair of the Management of Technology Department. He presently is serving on the Administrative Council, Budget Advisory Committee and 4 other committees.

Essary has taught coursework in Personal Finance, Financial Analysis, Money and Banking, Economics, Intermediate Accounting, Economics for Bankers, and Business Finance and Investments. He has received the "best paper" award on 4 papers and received the Presentation Excellence Award for 2 other papers. He has published 3 papers in the *International Journal of Academic Business World* and has made paper presentations at 10 conferences.

Dr. James H. Gadberry - Promoted to Associate Professor of Sociology. Dr. James Gadberry received his bachelor's degree in Sociology from Park University, his master's degree in Sociology from the University of Central Arkansas, and his doc-

torate in Sociology from Oklahoma State University.

Gadberry started his career at Athens State University with the fall semester, 2006. He serves as Chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee and is the Faculty Advisor for Alpha Kappa Delta, the Sociology Honor Society.

Gadberry's areas of expertise include Sociology Theory, Death and Dying, and Animal/Human Interactions. Recent coursework taught at Athens State include Sociological Theories, Sociology of Death & Dying, Social Analysis, Majority/Minority Group Relations, Sociology of Work, Social Structure & Personality, and Population Study. He is well-published and has presented his papers at many conferences.

Gadberry holds membership in the Mid-South Sociological Society and Alpha Kappa Delta.

Dr. Patricia Kuby - Promoted to Professor of Early Childhood Education.

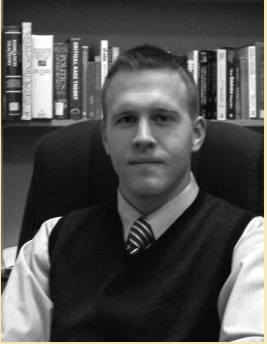
Dr. Patricia Kuby earned her Ph.D. in Early Childhood Education and Child Development from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, the master's degree in Reading Education from the University of Louisiana at Monroe and the bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Louisiana College in Pineville, Louisiana. She was selected as "Outstanding Alumna" of the School of Education of the University of Alabama at Birmingham for the 1997-98 year.

Kuby began her teaching career at Athens State in 1993 and served as Department Chair of Early Childhood Education. Kuby also served as Co-Conference Chair for the Southern Early Childhood Association Conference held in Birmingham and Chair of the Alabama Association for Young children conferences held at Athens State.

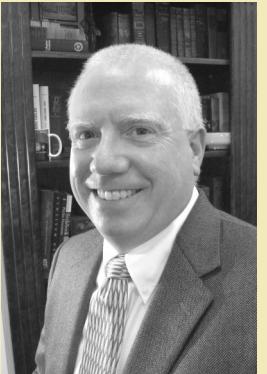
She is past president of the Alabama Association for Young children and the TV-AEYC and holds membership in OMEP - Organization Mondiale pour l'Education Prescolaire (World Organization for Early Childhood Education), NAEYC, SECA and Kappa Delta Pi. She has served on the Alabama Office of School Readiness Advisory Council since its inception and on several other advisory boards for Head Starts, Pre-K programs, and community colleges including the Decatur-Morgan County Chamber of Commerce Education Council and Children's Policy Council of Morgan County.



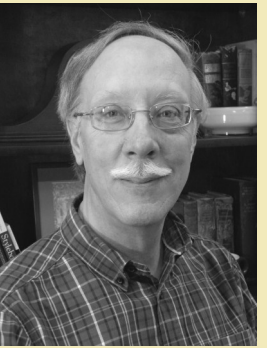
Branscombe



Chandler



Essary



Gadberry



Kuby

President Bob Glenn Named Harris Fellow

Athens State President Bob Glenn received the Rotary Club of Decatur's Community Paul Harris Fellow award for 2012-13. Dr. Glenn was honored due to his work developing and opening the Alabama Center

for the Arts in downtown Decatur. The project was moved from concept to classroom in four years, transforming the Decatur skyline and bringing excitement, academic and economic activity to the area.



Dr. and Mrs. Glenn with Rotarians Phil Williams, John Kenny and Jeremy Nails.

Athens State students Savanna Smith and Jonathan Steward assisting with the 2012 Transfer Transition Day



Athens State Accounting Club Receives Best Practice Newsletter Award

The Athens State Accounting Club has recently become the proud recipient of the *Best Practice Newsletter Award* for the 2011 - 2012 school year. The united effort of the Accounting Club officers made this achievement possible. Newsletter Director Jennifer Rogers along with the organization's officers worked diligently in composing articles about the club's meetings, activities, and accomplishments as well as articles on other information of interest to the club's members. As a result of their uni-

fied effort, the Accounting Club officers produced eight high-quality newsletters that met the requirements set by IMA for the *Best Practice Newsletter Award*.

Pictured, Newsletter Director Jennifer Rogers (seated) with Academic Mentor Professor Linda Hemingway (standing).



Athens State Received Scholarship Funds from Athens Ladies Civitan Club

Athens Ladies Civitan Club members Carol Malone and Carolyn Stair recently presented the Athens State University Alumni Association another check to establish the third annual Athens Ladies Civitan Scholarship. The scholarship is designed to assist Special Education Majors within Athens States' College of Education and was recently awarded to Chelsea Calhoun of Madison.

"We are happy to provide these scholarships," said Carol Malone, President of the club, and past president of the Athens State Alumni Association. "The funding for this donation comes from our spring Vidalia Onion fundraiser, Holiday Tour of Homes and fall cheesecake sales."

The mission of Civitan worldwide is to build good citizenship through volunteers

dedicated to serving individual and community needs with major emphasis on projects which assist people with developmental disabilities.

"This scholarship emulates the mission of Civitans," states Alumni Director Trish Di Lullo. "I have no doubt that Chelsea will complete her educational goals and provide a positive impact within Collaborative Education."

Locally, the Athens Ladies Club lends support to groups like the Tanner special needs department, mental health center clients, and DHR among others. The club also promotes good citizenship in youth through its sponsorship of the Greater Limestone County Junior Civitan Club and its annual essay contests both open to students in grades 6 - 12.

Pictured, left to right: Carolyn Stair, Athens Ladies Civitan Treasurer; Trish Di Lullo, Athens State Alumni Director; Chelsea Calhoun, Scholarship Recipient; Carol Malone, Athens Ladies Civitan President.



Athens State Receives Resident Scholarship Funds from INTERVADA

James McKenzie was awarded the first INTERVADA/Northeast Alabama Resident Scholarship through the Athens State University Alumni Association. Tom and Brandy Graham, owners of INTERVADA, established the annual scholarship in 2011.

Brandy Graham attended Athens State University on a partial Foundation scholarship and graduated in 2005. Graham was a full-time student and young mother while attending. Athens State was at the top of her list when she established herself in a career and had an opportunity to give back. Brandy and her husband, Tom Graham, approached the University to focus their efforts in the Northeast Alabama area.

McKenzie is in his last semester at Athens State University and was chosen as the

recipient based on the scholarship criteria. The Grahams had an opportunity to visit McKenzie at the Earnest Pruet Center of Technology (EPCOT) in Hollywood, Alabama and tour his classroom. McKenzie is a Career Tech Education major at Athens State and teaches Industrial Maintenance Technology at EPCOT. He recently took several of his students to the National SkillsUSA competition where they brought home the gold medal in Industrial Motor Controls.

"When I went to school, I was a student in the same shop where I now teach," explains McKenzie. "I had zero plans of ever attending college. I just wanted to get a trade and get to work." That goal changed after he competed in the SkillsUSA district competition and received a full scholarship

to Gadsden State Community College.

McKenzie now hopes to continue his education and pursue a Masters degree in Administration.

Pictured, left to right: James McKenzie, Brandy Graham and Tom Graham



Athens State Announces The 2012 Founders Queen and Court

On Thursday, November 1, Athens State Provost Dr. Ronald R. Cromwell crowned Rebecca Dubach as this year's Founders Queen. Dubach is from Decatur and is the daughter of Scott and Tina Dubach. She transferred to Athens State from Calhoun Community College and is a junior majoring in Human Resource Management.

Members of this year's Founders Court include Morgan Griffin-Morgan, Erica Smith, Savanna Smith, and LaQuena Tolliver.

"For over 50 years this honor has been bestowed upon women who exemplify Athens State's mission," states Director of Student Activities and Campus Events Coordinator Tena Bullington. "As the Queen and her court are voted on by the entire student body, they should be very proud of their recognition."

Picture: left to right: Founders Queen Rebecca Dubach, Morgan Griffin-Morgan, Erica Smith, Dr. Ronald R. Cromwell, Savanna Smith and LaQuena Tolliver.



UNA to Offer Graduate Program Taught on Athens State Campus

The University of North Alabama has partnered with Athens State University to offer a Masters of Business Administration degree on the Athens campus beginning in January of 2013. Athens State will provide classroom space for graduate students in UNA's MBA program with UNA teaching staff controlling the curriculum.

The University of North Alabama's online Master of Business Administration degree program has been ranked ninth in the nation on the 2012 list of Best Online MBA Programs, published

by GetEducated.com, a national consumer guide to online colleges.

"We are pleased to partner with UNA on this initiative," states Athens State College of Business' Dean Linda Shonesy. "It will assist our local alumnus, and those holding undergraduate degrees from other institutions, to more easily achieve their goal of obtaining this popular advanced degree."

The eight core courses in UNA's MBA Program will be taught on the Athens State campus in a hybrid format to offer flexible scheduling. Eight concentra-

tions are offered in this program. Each concentration requires three 3-credit hour courses (9 hours total) to be completed in the related subject matter.

For admission requirements for the program visit www.una.edu/mba-requirements/index.html or contact Toysan Reed at 256-765-4262 or mtreed@una.edu.



The Department of Logistics, Acquisition, and Enterprise Systems Management students from the College of Business along with university professors toured the Target Distribution Center in Greenbrier, Alabama on November 13.

McCandless Hall Renovations Expected to be Completed by Fall 2013

Early last year, work began on the renovation of McCandless Hall. The initial construction for the building was started in 1912 to create a showcase for the fine arts. Trustees under the persuasion of the popular young President Mary Norman Moore, allotted \$10,000 to construct the building.

Today's renovation will cost over \$4 million dollars with funding from state bond funds, a grant from Housing and Urban Development, institutional funds and from private donations.

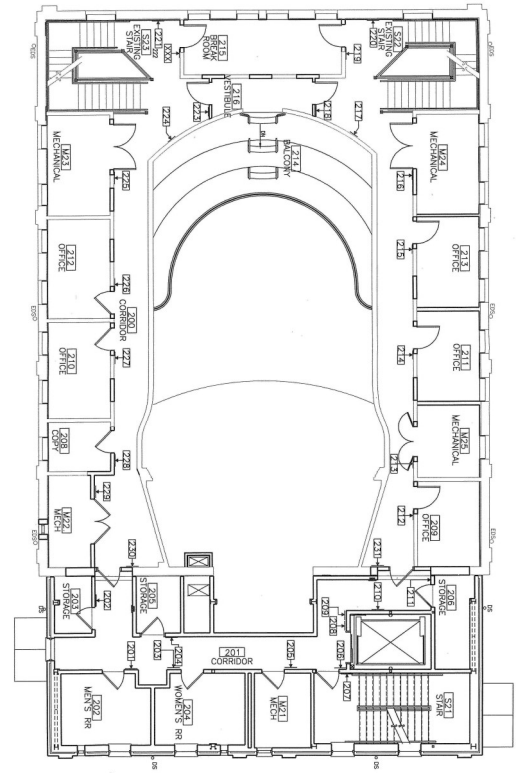
The building was completed in 1914 and in 1926 was named for Kate Leslie McCandless, a nationally known concert pianist who directed the music program at the college. The building's second and third floors have, in the past, housed art and music classrooms. The auditorium, with its proscenium arch and its excellent acoustics, is named for the late Herman Griffin, a faculty member who sang frequently on

that stage. A rare feature of the auditorium is its 1892 Tracker organ. The community, as well academia, has for one hundred years enjoyed concerts, lectures, and plays here.

Renovations will include making the entire structure ADA compliant, stabilizing the floors and balconies, revamping the theater footprint to include new seating with a center aisle, updating bathrooms and reworking the stage and backstage areas. The 1892 Kilgen century pipe organ is being restored and will be returned to its place of honor.

"There are many ways in which friends of this wonderful building can help with the renovation," states Director of Development Ronnie Knox. "There are naming opportunities for rooms, offices, etc. as well as a chance to purchase named seating within the theater."

The renovation is expected to be completed in September of 2013.



Renovations continue at the Beaty-Mason home

One of the priorities on the Athens State University master plan is the restoration of the Beaty-Mason home. Built by Robert Beaty in 1826, the property owned by the University since 1958 is the county's most fully developed example of the Greek Revival in Athens residential architecture. The structure's primary purpose is to serve as the home of the 191 year old institution's president.

Following an architectural study by Architecture Works of Birmingham, the renovation project commenced last year to stabilize the exterior of the 186 year-old building.

"What we had to do first is to protect the structure from any future water damage," states Athens State's Director of Physical Plant Jerry Bradford. "Our efforts have been primarily focused on diverting water from the exterior of the house away from the plaster façade and vents. We expect this project to be completed in around 90 working days."

The next phase of the renovation will begin shortly and will include restoration of the exterior of the building followed by interior restorations that will include new plumbing, heating and cooling, and electrical systems as well as code compliances for public access.

The Beaty-Mason home may have been originally planned as a school when it was built in 1826, although it was never used for that purpose. There were four rooms, it is believed, two upstairs and two down, with a stairway leading upon each side of the thick wall, which divided them. Rooms on the first floor had eight comparatively small windows.

It was remodeled in 1845 under the supervision of renowned local architect Hiram H. Higgins who also designed Athens State's Founder's Hall. Higgins completely altered the façade of the dwelling and erected the massive front portico, in which, two robust ionic columns are each paired with massive square pier columns.



The Athens State University Foundation Board and the University's continuing commitment to preserving the home have prompted the Foundation Board of Directors to initiate a campaign to restore the Beaty-Mason House.

To preserve this valuable educational and architectural resource for future generations, The Athens State University Foundation Board has initiated a campaign to create a Beaty-Mason Endowment. Although the Foundation and the Athens State budget provide funds for daily operation and maintenance of the property, additional sustainable income is needed to create a long-term stable financial fund. The Endowment will enable the University to manage future challenges and meet rising costs from a position of strength.

"Preserving the house is central to the revitalization of downtown Athens and the continuing development of the arts and cultural district as an attractive and inviting neighborhood," states Athens State University Foundation President Mary Pat Martin. "Athens State University is strongly committed to education and the President's home offers a historic venue for tours, arts and cultural events, meetings, and educational programs. Today, this house requires our urgent attention."



Athens State President Bob Glenn (right) and President Emeritus Sidney Sandridge (left) at the 2012 President's Holiday Open House.



The Athens State Library recently reconfigured the first floor space to include a Learning Commons featuring excellent places for personal or group study.

Alumni Association to Sponsor Trip to Ireland

The Athens State University Alumni Association is sponsoring a trip, Ireland's Coastal Treasures, between November 7 and November 15, 2013. This sponsored trip will be for 9 Days and will include 11 Meals (7 Breakfasts and 4 Dinners).

The comprehensive tour introduces you to another side of the Emerald Isle. Visit rollicking Dublin, historical Limerick, charming Kinsale, and Galway, "the City of Tribes." Tour the Old Midleton Distillery

and learn how Irish whiskey is made. Discover Ireland's 'wild west' region of Connemara. Cruise Killary Harbour, the only natural fjord in Ireland. Visit the Irish National Stud to see majestic thoroughbreds. Learn about daily life with a visit to an Irish farm. Step aboard the Jeanie Johnston, a recreated "famine ship." Travel to Kylemore Abbey, home to Ireland's oldest community of Benedictine nuns. Explore Ireland's history at the ancient monastic site of Clonmac-

noise and at the Cobh Heritage Centre. Toast it all with a drink in Europe's official 'oldest pub!'

This tour is offered at \$3,199 per person for double occupancy, and \$3,499 for single occupancy. Triple occupancy rates are available. Book this trip before May 7, 2013 and save \$250. Visit collettevacations.com/link/528783 for full information.



2012-2013 Athenian Ambassadors

The Athenians are the official hosts and hostesses for Athens State University, and serve as the face of the University on-campus and within the greater Athens State community. Members serve as university representatives, greet distinguished guests and assist with campus and Alumni events such as the Fiddlers Convention, Golf Classic, and Concert Lecture Series events. Athenians are chosen through an interview and application process in fall and serve thru the academic year (fall and spring). They are chosen based on character, appearance, personality and letter of recommendation. The Athenian Ambassadors are sponsored by the Athens State University Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Alabama Center for the Arts Bricks Available

The Athens State University Foundation and the Calhoun College Foundation are teaming to support the Alabama Center for the Arts by taking reservations for permanent commemorative bricks at the Center's downtown Decatur facility. The bricks, to be placed in the outdoor patio area off of the facility's main gallery, may be purchased to show your support, your company or organization's support, or to honor alumni or friends of the two institutions or to show support of local artisans. The cost is \$250.00 per brick and will be available for purchase until March 1, 2013.

"These permanent bricks will honor what we are trying to achieve by establishing the Alabama Center for the Arts," states Athens State's Vice President for Advance-

ment Rick Mould. "This is a place that brings together two fine institutions and a community effort to champion local arts. Symbolically the bricks will put an identity for those who want to build upon what we have started."

The Alabama Center for the Arts is located at 133 Second Avenue in downtown Decatur across from the Princess Theater. It represents a financial and supportive collaboration from each educational institution and Decatur and Morgan County. College coursework taught at the facility will lead to Associate of Science and Bachelor of Arts degrees with class offerings that include art appreciation, painting, drawing, computer graphics, sculpture, ceramics, pottery and a teaching major leading to

licensure for art instructors.

For information on purchasing a brick contact Athens State's Director of Development Ronnie Knox at 256-654-0094 or Calhoun's Executive Director of Foundation Terri Bryson at 256-890-4703.



Athens State Athletic Homecoming Honors Past Coaches and Players

Former athletes, coaches, boosters and supporters of Athens College/Athens State College and Athens State University gathered to celebrate the collective careers of Coach Oba Belcher and Coach Harold Murrell on August 25th in Carter Gymnasium.

The Athletic Homecoming also marked the grand opening of the Sports Memorabilia room in the old concession stand of the gym. Numerous items have been donated and displayed spanning decades of sports highlights at the college.

Over 200 attendees reminisced about Coaches Murrell and Belcher while lis-

tening to stories told by former players Rod Goode, Vernard Hendrix, Hal Murrell and David Pearson. Ms. Pat Murrell and Ms. Peggy Belcher attended and were also honored for their commitment to the basketball program.

The next Athletic Homecoming will honor our women's athletic teams focusing on the softball teams from 1991-2004. Expect to hear more about the Women's Athletic Homecoming with the event in August 2013.

Athens State's Dana Waldrop pins a corsage on Mrs. Oba Belcher prior to the homecoming festivities.

Important Alumni Event Dates for 2013 Alumni Awards Reception March 1, 2013

The Alumni Association will host an Awards Ceremony and Reception to honor Distinguished Alumni, Family and Friends of the University on Friday March 1, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. in the Ballroom. Reservations are \$10 per person and must be made by Wednesday, February 27, 2013. The Athens State University Alumni Annual Meeting will be held during this time with the installation of President and election of new board members. Nomination forms to serve on the Alumni Board of Directors can be found by contacting the office of Alumni Affairs at 256-233-8185.

Homecoming Weekend May 3 - May 4, 2013

The festivities for Homecoming Weekend are still being planned and will coincide with Geezerfest III (self-titled reunion of 1965-1975 Greeks). Some of the activities are a Meet and Greet with former professors, a mini-car show (60's & 70's), campus tours, special seating at graduation, and a dinner on Saturday evening. Make sure we have your email on file so you can get all the details. Call the Office of Alumni Affairs at 256-233-8185 to update your contact information.





**300 N. Beaty Street
Athens, Alabama 35611**

Standard
Postage Paid
Permit No. 122
Athens, Alabama
35612
Non-Profit
Organization

